

## ***FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** March 13, 2014

**Agenda Item:** Wolf ARM Amendments

**Division:** Wildlife      **Action Needed:** Final Amendments

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 15 minutes

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### **Background**

Senate Bill (SB) 200, passed by Montana's 63<sup>rd</sup> Legislature, provides for landowners or their agents, without a wolf license, to take wolves that are a potential threat to human safety, livestock or domestic dogs. The bill also provided authority for the Fish and Wildlife Commission to create rules to implement this action. In addition, Fish, Wildlife and Parks has proposed other changes to existing ARM based upon management experience, public input, and the successful wolf delisting since the rules were originally adopted in October, 2008.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

Proposed rules from the October 2013 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting were made available for public review and comment via mail, email, and public hearings in each of the seven FWP regional offices. Those comments will be made available for Commission review prior to final adoption. Not less than 1300 unique and repeated public comments were received with one of the primary themes being a call for better clarification of “potential threat”.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

To carry out the new legislation, FWP must have a method by which lawful take and reporting is formally defined and authorized. The proposed rules provide a means for SB 200 to be complied with while ensuring the lawful take of these wolves. Proposed adjustments for the Commission to consider at their March meeting reflect public input that includes clarifying “potential threat”.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends these rules be adopted as proposed with adjustments to the version proposed for public review in October, 2013.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move the Commission adopt the amendments to the wolf administrative rules as presented.